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U. S. Department of Agriculture  
COLORADO

HARDY

CACTI

LAS ANIMAS FLORAL CO.

LAS ANIMAS , COLORADO

Cacti are shipped prepaid. Seeds are shipped prepaid. Our plants are shipped in pots. This makes it unnecessary for the cactus to readjust itself after transplanting. Such shipping only slightly increases cost of plants and chances of loss are minimized. We do not have a highly ornate catalogue, for after all beautiful pictures or propaganda will not grow.

Colorado is listed by most publications as having but one or two species of cacti. This is incorrect and there are cacti in considerable abundance. These species are seldom offered in commerce. The names used are from a "New Manual of Rocky Mountain Botany" by Coulter and Nelson since this is a readily available work written for this region. The genera listed are:

Mamillaria .....	4 species
Echinocactus ....	3 species
Echinocereus ....	5 species
Opuntia .....	11 species

Did you know the stamens of cactus blossoms can move? Touch a fresh flower and the stamens crowd around the point of contact for perhaps 30 seconds and then relax. At the base of the stigma are nectaries which attract wild bees who are trapped by stamen movement and dusted with pollen. The bees may carry pollen to the stigma of another flower thus assuring cross fertilization.

All cacti native to Colorado have adapted themselves to hot dry summers and cold variable winters. Our cacti are frost hardy and withstand cold as extreme as 30 degrees below zero if in wilted condition. They become firm again on approach of warm weather. It is reasonably safe to say that Colorado cacti will withstand the cold to be found in many regions but in their native state there is little winter moisture so that in more humid climates they will need protection against too moist a soil. They should enter winter in a somewhat wilted condition. Give as much strong sunlight as possible.

Cacti are of easy culture and give a wealth of blossom for a minimum of attention. The natural soil in which they are found has two important features in that it is always rather dry and deficient in organic matter. Much is written about soil for cacti but remembering the two above requisites will enable a person to use some material at hand. Clays or clay loams are too retentive of water; building sand is too coarse and loose altho it is useful in providing drainage in a soil to which it is added. Most soils between these two extremes can be used if adequate drainage is supplied. Silt as found in irrigation ditches or stream beds is almost an ideal material. Any soil used for cacti should be free from recent organic matter for while other plants may respond to a highly organic soil, leaf mold, or the like, a cactus is likely to become rotten in such a soil. Yet some well rotted organic matter other than manure is desirable as our cacti do not naturally grow in a soil totally without organic material. Give a cactus good drainage in a pot and water infrequently, especially in winter, yet do not expect a cactus to thrive without water. In a pot they need more water than when planted in the open. A cactus can be killed by drought but a temporary lack of water seems to fit natural conditions better. Our cacti receive an average of 12 inches of rainfall annually, mostly during the growing season. Planted in the open in dry climates they will shift for themselves with perhaps an occasional watering if they become wilted. In moist climates out of doors plant on an elevation of loose soil so that rotting will not occur thru poor drainage. A rotten plant is one that has been in contact with decaying material or one that has been over-watered. A plant just beginning to rot can usually be saved by removing the diseased tissue and placing the wounded plant where it can dry for a week before replanting. Our cacti are shipped free from insect enemies.

#### S E E D S

We do not have seeds of all cacti listed and in some Colorado species fruit and seed are unknown. We have seed of Mamillaria vivipara, Opuntia arborescens, Opuntia rhodantha, and Opuntia polycantha.



BALL CACTI are unbranched, leafless and bear spines without barbs on the tip.

Mamillaria (Coryphantha) vivipara is 2 inches in diameter and 2 inches high. The spines are borne on tubercles (nipples) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long and  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch in diameter. The tubercle is slightly grooved on the upper side and bears, at the tip 12-20 white, brown tipped, radial spines. The four longer central spines are quite brownish. The flowers arise from between the tubercles at the top of the plant and are an inch in diameter and bright purple. Of all our cacti fruits this little green spineless fruit alone is juicy and has an attractive flavor.

Echinocereus viridiflorus is 2 inches high and more inclined to be cylindrical. The spines are borne on 13 vertical or spiral ridges. The radial spines are 12-18, of variable length and color, most being white and the longer red tipped. There may be one stout red central spine, occasionally white, or no central at all. The yellow flowers are borne prolifically and they remain open several days. It is followed by a spiny green oval fruit. This is an excellent cactus of wide distribution.

Echinocereus caespitosus is some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall and pointed cylindrical. The spines are borne on vertical ridges and number 13-20. All spines are radial spines and short, white, or red tipped. The plant is densely covered with spines. The flower is bright purple and is large for so small a cactus, being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. The dry fruit is spiny and splits down one side when the seeds are ripe.

OPUNTIA.-All members of the genus Opuntia are branched and bear stout spines arising from an area of small bristles. The new growth has small cone-shaped leaves which soon drop off as the spines start growth from the axil. The end plant consists of stem and root. The fruit is spiny, large, edible if the spines are rubbed off, and bears at the tip a cone-shaped scar where the showy blossom was attached. These are even hardier than the preceding species.

Opuntia arborescens is a shrub attaining 5-6 feet in height with a much branched growth of cylindrical segments 5-6 inches long and an inch to 6 inches in diameter. There are 8-30 spines per tubercle, and the slight tubercles are closely set. Spines bristle in every direction and 1-8 are considerably longer. Young spines are covered with a straw colored sheath which is soon detached leaving a clean spine. Flowers are freely borne on larger plants and are 2 inches in diameter and bright purple. The fruit which follows is about an inch in diameter, tubercled, spiny, and bright yellow. It remains attached and in full color a year or more. This species is a rapid grower, hardy, and bears attractive flowers and fruit. It is the largest cactus in the hardy group, yet the plant makes an attractive potted plant when small.

Opuntia polycantha.--Prickly Pear.--A creeping prostrate plant not over 6 inches high and several feet in diameter bearing stems that are flattened, oval, and some 4-6 inches long. It has small white spines and several long brown centrals, all pointing down. The flowers are 2 inches in diameter and a bright orange yellow. The fruit is red after frost and not heavily spined. It is an easily grown and hardy cactus.

Opuntia rhodantha is very similar to O. polycantha but the spines are more numerous on the fruit. The flower is red-purple with red stamens.

Opuntia fragilis is like a small prickly pear but the joints of the stem are not so flattened altho they vary from round to cylindrical. The tip joints separate easily to form new plants. Flowers are pale yellow and fruit is smaller than the prickly pear. Neither fruit nor stems are so spiny but the stems have good stout spines.

Yucca glauca is a desert plant readily grown from seed. We have small plants. We offer seed for those who wish to grow their own. It grows 2 feet high and as much in diameter and bears a spike of creamy bell-shaped blossoms that open their fragrance in the evening. It is attractive and hardy.

Other desirable desert plants are being propagated for later sales.

Sedum stenopetalum is a native hardy sedum from the Rocky Mountains. The flowers are clusters of yellow stars.

We have a few of the common succulent plants that are of easy culture. These are frost tender.

Crassula arborescens. The common Japanese Rubber Plant.

Crassula tetragona. Has 4 ranked pointed leaves and is erect and branching.

Bryophyllum pinatum is erect, unbranched, and has large rounded leaves with indentations from which spring little plants. The Air Plant.

Portulacaria afra like C. arborescens, smaller with a shorter heart-shaped leaf.

Sempervivums, the common Hen and Chickens. There are a number of very similar kinds. S. soboliferum is bluish in color.

Aloe variegata, dark green with white spots.

Aloe succulata, light green with white spots, very succulent and a rapid grower.

Stapelia is a cactus-like milkweed. The large flowers are five pointed, and light brown with dark brown spots. Fertilized flowers set a pod filled with silk and seeds like a milkweed. The plant looks like a climbing Cereus.

Kalanchoe globulifera coccinea is a succulent bearing clusters of small red 4-petaled flowers in mid-winter. The most attractive blooming succulent.

Sansevieria zeylanica. Snake plant. Tall erect blades 3 feet high, dark green and gray variegated. Does well in shade.



## PRICE LIST

Large specimen plants priced on request.

Mamillaria vivipara .....	\$ .50	.30	
Echinocereus viridiflorus .....	.40	.30	
Echinocereus caespitosus .....	.60	.30	
Opuntia arborescens .....		.30	
Opuntia polycantha .....	.35	)	Because of
Opuntia rhodantha .....	.35	)	greater weight.
Opuntia fragilis .....		.30	

Yucca glauca .....40 .60 Because of  
greater weight.

Succulents---Sedum, Crassula, Aloe, Kalanchoe, etc. 35¢. 25¢

Seeds by species, 5¢ a packet.

Seeds in mixed packet of the species listed, 10¢.

